

REMARKS

Claims 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 20-23 are pending in this application.

Applicant has amended claims 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, has canceled claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-12, 14, and 17, and has added new claims 20-23. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's prompt indication that claims 7, 8, 12, and 13 define allowable subject matter. Applicant's responses to the issues raised in the Office Action are set forth below.

Objection to the Specification

In response to the objection to the specification, Applicant has corrected the informalities cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Objection to the Claims

Applicant has herein canceled claims 1, 5, and 10 to which the Examiner has objected. Where language from these claims has been incorporated in other claims, Applicant has corrected the informalities noted by the Examiner.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-6, 9-11, and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Wang* (U.S. Patent No. 7,110,612 B1) (as noted above, Applicant has herein canceled, among other claims, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, and 17).

Applicant has amended independent claim 4 to include the features specified in original claims 5-7, with a modification in terminology (in light of the changes made to claim 4, Applicant has herein canceled claims 5-7). The modification in terminology involves changing the phrase "dispersion value" to "size of the edge component." Support for this

change can be found in Applicant's specification at, for example, Paragraph [0063]. The *Wang* reference does not disclose (or suggest) selectively using a filter in accordance with the size of an edge component when the target edge level is lower than a prescribed edge level. As such, for at least this reason, the *Wang* reference does not disclose each and every feature of claim 4, as amended herein.

Applicant has amended independent claim 9 to include the features specified in original claims 10-12, with the same modification in terminology discussed above with respect to claim 4 (in light of the changes made to claim 9, Applicant has herein canceled claims 10-12). For at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 4, the *Wang* reference does not disclose each and every feature of claim 9, as amended herein.

Applicant has amended each of independent claims 15, 16, 18, and 19 to include the features of original claim 7 (or original claim 12), subject to the modification in terminology discussed above. As noted above, the *Wang* reference does not disclose (or suggest) selectively using a filter in accordance with the size of an edge component when the target edge level is lower than a prescribed edge level. As such, for at least this reason, the *Wang* reference does not disclose each and every feature of claims 15, 16, 18, and 19, as amended herein.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 4, 9, 15, 16, 18, and 19, as amended herein, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over *Wang*.

New Claims

As noted above, Applicant has added new claims 20-23, which depend from claims 15, 16, 18, and 19, respectively. Each of claims 20-23 specifies features that generally correspond those specified in original claim 8 (or original claim 13), with the same modification in terminology discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of claims 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, as amended herein, and examination of new claims 20-23, and submits that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at **(408) 749-6902**. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. MIPFP070).

Respectfully submitted,
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